

**Overview**

This activity sheet is designed to help you consider both your letter knowledge practice and your classroom's environmental print. It will help you consider how you've taught letter knowledge in the past and help you plan to move forward with your letter knowledge instruction.

After you've completed this self-assessment, hold onto your work. You will be asked to revisit your reflections at the end of the course.

**Objectives**

- To evaluate the quantity and quality of environmental print in your classroom.
- To reflect on your letter knowledge practice.
- To learn more about some of the tools and techniques that maximize the effectiveness of letter knowledge instruction.

**Materials**

- "Building the Foundation" activity sheet, below

**Instructions**

1. For each consideration below, give yourself a numerical rating from 1-5. A rating of 1 indicates that you feel you have a lot of room for improvement; a rating of 5 indicates that you feel you have met the challenge head on.
2. Try to rate yourself as frankly and honestly as possible. This will help you identify your planning and teaching strengths, and reveal areas for improvement.
3. Reflect on your answers in Part I of the activity sheet and respond to the questions in Part II accordingly.

## Building the Foundation Activity Sheet

### Part I – Self-Assessment

Considerations	1	2	3	4	5	Comments & Questions
I have created a print-rich classroom by:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making sure there are plenty of alphabet and name books close at hand.</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Labeling tools, props, and toys that are used frequently.</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decorating the walls with signs, posters, and banners that feature print.</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing plenty of hands-on alphabet activities.</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Posting a Letter Wall.</li> </ul>						
I have made best use of the Letter Wall by:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Familiarizing children with the concept of the alphabet before introducing the Letter Wall.</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leading the children in alphabet and name book read alouds.</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Posting it near the circle area.</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making sure the children can see it clearly.</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making sure the children can reach it easily.</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having children add their names to it.</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning purposeful and playful Letter Wall activities.</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing a variety of fun pointers for use in Letter Wall activities.</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating picture-word cards for new vocabulary words which will be added to it.</li> </ul>						

## Part II - Reflection

Based on your assessment in Part I:

1. What do you consider the three strongest, print-rich features of your classroom? How do you use them throughout the day?
2. Identify and list the three ways in which you feel you can bring more and better print into your classroom.
3. What do you consider the most successful aspect of your letter knowledge instruction? What is it about this aspect of your instruction that makes it so successful?
4. How do you feel you could most improve your letter knowledge instruction?